

Gottschalk, Martin

From: Paul Bianco [pbianco@fggbb.com]
Sent: Friday, December 17, 2010 10:04 AM
To: Gottschalk, Martin
Cc: Dinah Fuentes
Subject: US Patent Application No. 09/876,311; Attorney Docket No. 7802-A08-002
Attachments: proposed claim amendments.doc

Dear Examiner Gottschalk-

Further to our discussion earlier this week, I received authorization from the client to agree to the claim amendments we discussed to place this application in condition for allowance. Specifically, it is my understanding that you are prepared to allow this case if we add claim 8 to claim 1, amend dependencies accordingly, and cancel any other independent claims (which can be pursued in continuing applications). In the attached WORD document, I have made these changes. Please review and let me know if you have any questions. Given the desire to take action this week and your willingness to handle via an Examiner's Amendment, feel free to send an email with any questions. I understand that this may not be secure.

Thank you for your assistance with this application.

Paul Bianco



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12/18/2010

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Marice Ronan Goodman et al.

Confirmation No.: 8420

Application No.: 09/876,311

Attorney Docket No: 7802-A08-002

Filed: June 7, 2001

Group Art Unit: 3693

For: METHOD OF INCENTIVISING MEMBERS OF A
DISEASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME TO
COMPLY WITH THE PROGRAMME

Examiner: Martin A. Gottschalk

PROPOSED CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently amended) A method of incentivising members of a disease management programme to comply with the programme, the method comprising the steps of:

defining a plurality of general programme areas and a plurality of specific programme areas, wherein the plurality of general programme areas are programme areas that if complied with are of benefit to a member stricken with any disease managed by the disease management programme and wherein the plurality of specific programme areas are programme areas that are determined to be of particular benefit to a member afflicted with some but not all of the diseases managed by the disease management programme;

awarding points to a member for each of the general programme areas in which the member participates, the points being allocated to members based on a multi-level system, including:

a first level, wherein the member is awarded points for merely taking part in a programme area,

a second level, wherein the member is awarded a bonus set of points in addition to the points awarded in the first level in response to participating in all programme areas associated with a disease with which the member is afflicted, and

a third level, wherein the member is awarded points for attaining a minimum level for a measurable of a programme area associated with a disease with which the member is afflicted;

defining a measurable within each of the general and specific programme areas so that a member's performance within said programme area can be ascertained;

defining a minimum level for each measurable, which minimum level indicates a minimum required level of member performance within each of the programme areas;

awarding points to a member for each of the specific programme areas in which the member participates, only if the member is afflicted with a disease to which the specific programme area in which the member participates has been determined to be of particular benefit and if the member obtains the minimum level of a measurable for a particular programme area;

calculating a total number of points awarded to the member[.]; and

allocating a reward to the member if the total number of points awarded to the member accumulates to a predetermined amount of points.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein points are only awarded to the member if the member participates in all the programme areas which are associated with the disease or diseases with which the member is afflicted.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein additional points are awarded to the member if the member participates in all of the programme areas which are associated with the disease or diseases with which the member is afflicted.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the general programme areas are some of diet, exercise, smoking and education.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the specific programme areas are one or more of blood pressure, flow volume loop measurement, influenza vaccine, pneumococcal vaccine, cholesterol and long term glucose control.

6-8. (Canceled)

9. (Withdrawn-Currently amended) A method according to claim [[8]] 1 wherein, additional points are awarded to the member if they obtain the minimum level of a measurable for all of the programme areas which are associated with the disease with which the member is afflicted.

10-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the reward is related to the amount of points accumulated by the member.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the reward is a cash payout or special options on services.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein the services are one or more of airplane tickets, hotel accommodation and car rentals.

17-27. (Canceled)

Gottschalk, Martin

From: Paul Bianco [pbianco@fggbb.com]
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2011 1:25 PM
To: Gottschalk, Martin
Subject: RE: US Patent Application No. 09/876,311; Attorney Docket No. 7802-A08-002
Attachments: proposed claim amendments 20110110.doc

Revised proposed claims are attached per our discussion.

Paul Bianco



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From: Gottschalk, Martin [mailto:Martin.Gottschalk@USPTO.GOV]
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2011 12:05 PM
To: Paul Bianco
Subject: RE: US Patent Application No. 09/876,311; Attorney Docket No. 7802-A08-002

I. In claim 1, the first inputting step I would like to retain "defining," so

inputting into the computer data pertaining to a definition of ~~defining~~

should read

inputting into the computer definitions of

i.e. "pertaining to" is too vague.

II. Similarly, for the next inputting step (in bold):

inputting into the computer a **definition of a** measurable within each of the general and specific programme areas so that a member's performance within said programme area can be **ascertained**;

III. Add "minimum" as in bold below:

inputting into the computer a **minimum** level for each measurable, which minimum level indicates a minimum required level of member performance within each of the programme areas;

I think the 101 issues are resolved, so if you could make these changes in your next reply, I think that

1/10/2011

should be it.

MG

From: Paul Bianco [mailto:pbianco@fggbb.com]
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2011 9:22 AM
To: Gottschalk, Martin
Subject: RE: US Patent Application No. 09/876,311; Attorney Docket No. 7802-A08-002

Examiner Gottschalk-

Sorry for the delay in getting back to you, but I have only just received authorization to proceed. Attached is the proposed amendment to place this application in condition for allowance. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

Thank you for your assistance.
 Paul Bianco



Paul Bianco Ph.D.
 Registered Patent Attorney, U.S. Patent & Trademark Office
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From: Gottschalk, Martin [mailto:Martin.Gottschalk@USPTO.GOV]
Sent: Sunday, January 09, 2011 7:41 AM
To: Paul Bianco
Subject: RE: US Patent Application No. 09/876,311; Attorney Docket No. 7802-A08-002

How are things coming?

From: Paul Bianco [mailto:pbianco@fggbb.com]
Sent: Monday, December 20, 2010 1:40 PM
To: Paul Bianco; Gottschalk, Martin
Cc: Dinah Fuentes
Subject: RE: US Patent Application No. 09/876,311; Attorney Docket No. 7802-A08-002

Dear Examiner Gottschalk-

Further to our telephone conversation, attached is revised proposed draft amendments.

Thank you.
 Paul Bianco



Paul Bianco Ph.D.
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1/10/2011

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Marice Ronan Goodman et al.

Confirmation No.: 8420

Application No.: 09/876,311

Attorney Docket No: 7802-A08-002

Filed: June 7, 2001

Group Art Unit: 3693

For: METHOD OF INCENTIVISING MEMBERS OF A
DISEASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME TO
COMPLY WITH THE PROGRAMME

Examiner: Martin A. Gottschalk

PROPOSED CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently amended) A method of incentivising members of a disease management programme to comply with the programme, using a computer, the method comprising the steps of:

inputting into the computer data pertaining to a definition of ~~defining~~ a plurality of general programme areas and a plurality of specific programme areas, wherein the plurality of general programme areas are programme areas that if complied with are of benefit to a member stricken with any disease managed by the disease management programme and wherein the plurality of specific programme areas are programme areas that are determined to be of particular benefit to a member afflicted with some but not all of the diseases managed by the disease management programme;

calculating, using the computer, an award of ~~awarding~~ points to a member for each of the general programme areas in which the member participates, the points being allocated to members based on a multi-level system, including:

a first level, wherein the member is awarded points for merely taking part in a programme area,

a second level, wherein the member is awarded a bonus set of points in addition to the points awarded in the first level in response to participating in all programme areas associated with a disease with which the member is afflicted, and

a third level, wherein the member is awarded points for attaining a minimum level for a measurable of a programme area associated with a disease with which the member is afflicted;

inputting into the computer a measurable within each of the general and specific programme areas so that a member's performance within said programme area can be ascertained;

inputting into the computer a level for each measurable, which minimum level indicates a minimum required level of member performance within each of the programme areas;

calculating, using the computer, an award of ~~awarding~~ points to a member for each of the specific programme areas in which the member participates, only if the member is afflicted with a disease to which the specific programme area in which the member participates has been determined to be of particular benefit and if the member obtains the minimum level of a measurable for a particular programme area;

calculating, using the computer, a total number of points awarded to the member[.]; and

calculating, using the computer, an allocation of ~~allocating~~ a reward to the member if the total number of points awarded to the member accumulates to a predetermined amount of points.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein points are only awarded to the member if the member participates in all the programme areas which are associated with the disease or diseases with which the member is afflicted.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein additional points are awarded to the member if the member participates in all of the programme areas which are associated with the disease or diseases with which the member is afflicted.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the general programme areas are some of diet, exercise, smoking and education.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the specific programme areas are one or more of blood pressure, flow volume loop measurement, influenza vaccine, pneumococcal vaccine, cholesterol and long term glucose control.

6-8. (Canceled)

9. (Withdrawn-Currently amended) A method according to claim [[8]] 1 wherein, additional points are awarded to the member if they obtain the minimum level of a measurable for all of the programme areas which are associated with the disease with which the member is afflicted.

10-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the reward is related to the amount of points accumulated by the member.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the reward is a cash payout or special options on services.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein the services are one or more of airplane tickets, hotel accommodation and car rentals.

17-27. (Canceled)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Marice Ronan Goodman et al.

Confirmation No.: 8420

Application No.: 09/876,311

Attorney Docket No: 7802-A08-002

Filed: June 7, 2001

Group Art Unit: 3693

For: METHOD OF INCENTIVISING MEMBERS OF A
DISEASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME TO
COMPLY WITH THE PROGRAMME

Examiner: Martin A. Gottschalk

PROPOSED CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently amended) A method of incentivising members of a disease management programme to comply with the programme, using a computer, the method comprising the steps of:

inputting into the computer data definitions of ~~defining~~ a plurality of general programme areas and a plurality of specific programme areas, wherein the plurality of general programme areas are programme areas that if complied with are of benefit to a member stricken with any disease managed by the disease management programme and wherein the plurality of specific programme areas are programme areas that are determined to be of particular benefit to a member afflicted with some but not all of the diseases managed by the disease management programme;

calculating, using the computer, an award of ~~awarding~~ points to a member for each of the general programme areas in which the member participates, the points being allocated to members based on a multi-level system, including:

a first level, wherein the member is awarded points for merely taking part in a programme area,

a second level, wherein the member is awarded a bonus set of points in addition to the points awarded in the first level in response to participating in all programme areas associated with a disease with which the member is afflicted, and

a third level, wherein the member is awarded points for attaining a minimum level for a measurable of a programme area associated with a disease with which the member is afflicted;

inputting into the computer a definition of a measurable within each of the general and specific programme areas so that a member's performance within said programme area can be ascertained;

inputting into the computer a minimum level for each measurable, which minimum level indicates a minimum required level of member performance within each of the programme areas;

calculating, using the computer, an award of ~~awarding~~ points to a member for each of the specific programme areas in which the member participates, only if the member is afflicted with a disease to which the specific programme area in which the member participates has been determined to be of particular benefit and if the member obtains the minimum level of a measurable for a particular programme area;

calculating, using the computer, a total number of points awarded to the member[.]; and

calculating, using the computer, an allocation of ~~allocating~~ a reward to the member if the total number of points awarded to the member accumulates to a predetermined amount of points.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein points are only awarded to the member if the member participates in all the programme areas which are associated with the disease or diseases with which the member is afflicted.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein additional points are awarded to the member if the member participates in all of the programme areas which are associated with the disease or diseases with which the member is afflicted.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the general programme areas are some of diet, exercise, smoking and education.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the specific programme areas are one or more of blood pressure, flow volume loop measurement, influenza vaccine, pneumococcal vaccine, cholesterol and long term glucose control.

6-8. (Canceled)

9. (Withdrawn-Currently amended) A method according to claim [[8]] 1 wherein, additional points are awarded to the member if they obtain the minimum level of a measurable for all of the programme areas which are associated with the disease with which the member is afflicted.

10-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the reward is related to the amount of points accumulated by the member.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the reward is a cash payout or special options on services.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein the services are one or more of airplane tickets, hotel accommodation and car rentals.

17-27. (Canceled)